



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

ABOUT WINDOW DRAPERIES.

BY HELEN ANDERSON.

AS every day brings us nearer to that season of the year that Tom Hood so aptly describes as—

"No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees;
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds—November,"

as we feel the first breath of winter in the air, and see Dame Nature busily packing away her treasures for another season, we naturally look around to see what we can find to fill in a measure the places thus left vacant, and as we no longer can see "leaves, birds and butterflies," the next best thing is to try and make the house and home as pleasing as possible so that we may not feel too keenly the putting away of Mother Nature's bric-a-brac, and the drawing on of her white covers over her well cared for furniture.

At this season almost one of the first things to be thought of in the winter preparation is, how the windows can be arranged how to make them comfortable and yet artistic; for those who have only to consult a first-class decorator the question is soon answered, but for the many who desire and strive for the home beautiful and who are limited as to means, the question is not so readily disposed of.

Knowing that shades do not properly come under the heading of window draperies, they are yet so nearly related to the subject that I cannot refrain from giving a hint or two about the cleaning and renovating that they generally need after the summer;

Generally most housekeepers know the simple remedy of turning the shades upside down and making a new hem at the top, but I am also sure that there are many who do not know how a shade should be properly laundered. If you have time, a great deal of patience and exactness in such work, you can succeed in doing your shades over as well as any establishment for that purpose can do them for you.

First, do not rip the hems, leave them just as they are, lay the shade upon a table, if you have one large enough for the purpose, and pin it out flat and even, then with chalk carefully draw a line around the shade so that you have the exact size. In place of the chalk, a string or piece of tape tacked around the shade will do quite as well, as the chalk is apt to rub. Remove the shade from the table and wash as you would any other piece of linen, starching very slightly. While damp replace it upon the table and carefully pin the edges at least every quarter of an inch apart so that the shade may exactly fit the former measure, do not spare the pins, the closer the pins are together the more even the edges will be. If these directions are carefully followed the result will be satisfactory. If you have not a table suitable for the purpose, the floor will do quite as well, and by doing a shade or two every day or even every week the work will not seem so tedious. It would be almost impossible in an ordinary house to do all at once.

And let me say to any one who is purchasing shades, get those that are slightly off the white, a very light ecru or cream, they give a much more pleasant light for the eye and cast a soft golden shade over the room that is much more effective than white which is very apt to look cold and staring.

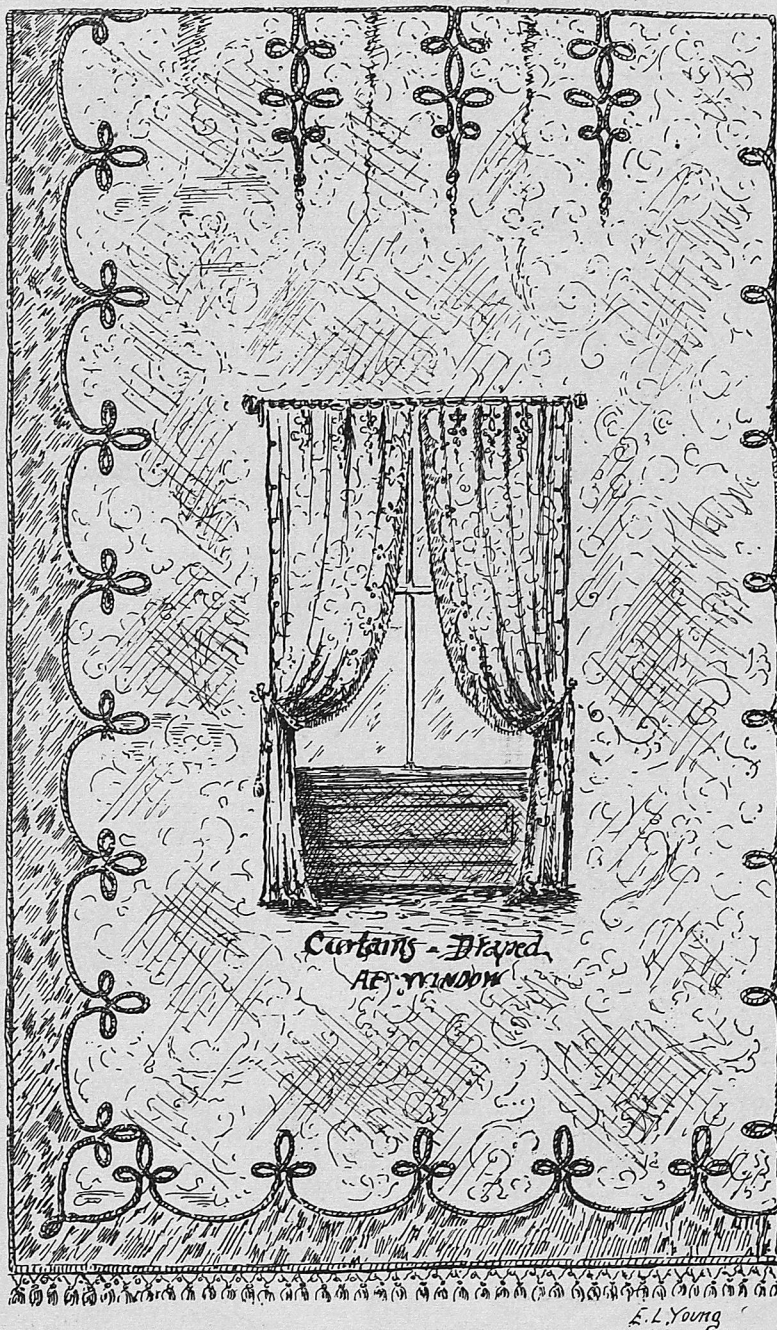
One of the most important points in the arrangement of a window nowadays is the vitrage curtain, as it is really about the only part of the hangings that shows from the street, and there is nothing that gives a house a neater and more uniform appearance than these simple little sash curtains now so popular. The beauty of this curtain is that it can be made so easily and of such inexpensive material and yet look so well. Of course, in many of the homes of our merchant princes, where expense is of no consideration, the vitrage curtains are not only most elaborate in make, often of Irish point, costing anywhere in the neighborhood of three or four hundred dollars a pair; many are made of the cluny lace which is also expensive; some are made of the white India and China silks, beautifully trimmed with lace, and are very handsome; but they can also be made in plain Swiss or dotted Swiss edged with cheap lace, even of the cheapest white linen trimmed with a little cotton fringe, these wash splendidly, and when they are tied back with ribbons look remarkably well, even looped back with a little bit of the fringe that trims them they still are very effective; indeed, had one to choose between vitrage curtains and heavy draperies I think the vitrage would really be the best choice, as they not only decorate the inside but are wonderful helps to the outside as well if the right materials are used. Avoid colors unless very handsome material is used; if cheap, they are vulgar. The simplest white material is in every way more desirable, not only more refined, but better wearing.

In the way of heavy curtains there is everything to choose from in color, texture and price. Our domestic manufactures are increasing every day. Brocatelle and tapestries are now made here; they are quite as good as the imported, but though less in price, they are yet not cheap as the word is commonly used, but if one can afford to buy good material it is the better

plan, as heavy curtains with ordinary care will last a lifetime, and the better the material the softer and more graceful the folds, the easier to drape, in fact the more pleasing in every way.

There are very few materials that are cheap that look really well as window draperies, it is almost impossible to get the soft flowing lines in coarse or poorly woven textures. Once in a while some one with a true eye for artistic effect will succeed in introducing some coarse material that is really good, but to do this requires a great deal of natural taste, a keen sense of the general fitness of things, and some experience. Plush is always handsome, either as a whole or as trimming for other materials, and generally wears well. Tapestries and soft heavy silks make up most satisfactorily. Flax is a good material for the price, but is apt to be a little heavy and stiff.

In the ordinary house it is better to avoid elaborate draperies unless the work is done by experienced hands, many of the hangings that are in the style of Louis XVI are a snare and a



delusion to the unwary, looking very simple and easy of construction, but in reality they are most intricate as they are cut and made by patterns which are quite complex and without which it is impossible to make them hang properly. They are a pitfall for the inexperienced as they are apt to imagine that they are draped carelessly over a pole, an attempt at draping them in this way is generally enough to satisfy one that they are not as they seem. So that unless you can have the work done by those who make it a business, and also unless the room is in tone with such hangings, it is much better to use plain straight hangings as they are never out of place and are more dignified than an attempt that at best is but an attempt.

In this as in every other form of decoration, the most severe simplicity is preferable to anything that tends towards the cheap and tawdry. There are so few people who possess the knack of using cheap and gaudy things well so that in the majority it is far safer to eschew them entirely. A very pretty curtain and trimmed in quite a novel style, and also one that need not be very expensive, is made of a figured material, trimmed with a band of plush four inches wide, scalloped on the inner side; the inner edge of the scallop is outlined with a cord that is strong enough in contrast to be seen. At each point of the scallop the cord forms a sort of knot.